

Review of 2007

Pyralids

A total of just 22 species were trapped or seen but it was a very poor year for both residents and migrants.

Migrants

After the bumper year of 2006 the numbers of *noctuella* (Rush Veneer) and *ferrugalis* (Rusty-dot Pearl) reduced to a level similar to 2005. Just a single *noctuella* was recorded (on the 24th August), and 6 *ferrugalis* were trapped, with 3 in July, 2 in October and a rather late individual on 27th November.

A rather large *abietella* (length 19mm) trapped well away from the vicinity of pine, at Hythe on the 13th June (photo), was presumably a migrant.



abietella - Hythe - 13th June

Residents

There were just singles of *Synaphe punctalis* (21st June) and *extimalis* (24th August) trapped at Hythe, and 2 *nubilalis* (European Corn-borer) there on 9th July. An *Ephestia parasitella* at Hythe on 25th May was noteworthy.

Elsewhere an *asinalis* at Abbotscliffe on the 5th May and a *dentalis* at Samphire Hoe on the 15th September were good records.

A good comparison of numbers is provided by *flammealis*, the most common species at Hythe – a total of 57 were trapped in 2007, compared to c.190 in 2006.

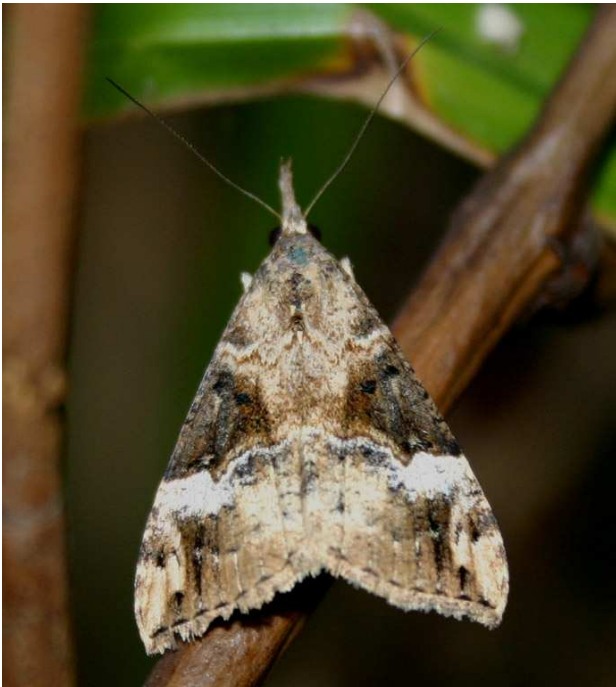
Macros

A total of just 114 species were trapped or seen. It was a very poor year for resident species due to a summer dominated by rain, strong winds and cold temperatures, and this was reflected throughout the country. This was particularly so in July and August and the peak catch of just 76 macro moths at Hythe occurred in June. There was no repeat of the large immigration of 2006 either.

Migrants

Despite the poor numbers of migrants, 2007 still produced a couple of real surprises. On the 14th July the seventh British record of Pale-shouldered Cloud was taken at Folkestone by P. Sharpe. The specimen was exhibited at the British Entomological and Natural History Society Annual Exhibition, 2007.

Then on the 1st November the second Kent record of Bloxworth Snout was trapped and photographed at Hythe by I. Roberts.



Bloxworth Snout - Hythe - 1st November

After the large numbers of Clancy's Rustics in autumn 2006 it was perhaps not surprising that the first spring record occurred in 2007 – at Hythe on 13th June (photo). There were a further 2 in early October perhaps suggesting fresh immigration.



Clancy's Rustic - Hythe - 13th June

Only two Hummingbird Hawk-moths were reported and these were in the earlier part of the year – at Folkestone on the notably early date of 24th February, and at Hythe on the 14th April.

Just a single White-point was trapped at Hythe, on 9th June, and Silver Y numbers were abysmal: only 9 were trapped at Hythe (compared to 219 in 2006), and low numbers were noted from other sites. Many migrant species were not recorded at all in 2007.

Residents

The first Common Quaker appeared on the 8th March, with the first Hebrew Character on about the 20th. April saw unseasonably warm weather and an early emergence of several species, including Shuttle-shaped Dart, Oak Nycteoline, Small Quaker and Early Grey (9th), Clouded Drab (10th), Knot Grass and March Moth (11th), Muslin Moth and Cabbage (14th), Flame Shoulder and Bright-line Brown-eye (17th) and Tawny Shears (23rd).

The first Treble Brown Spot at Hythe on the 24th May was reasonably early and a Blue-bordered Carpet there on the 20th June was noteworthy. As last year, a single Toadflax Brocade was trapped at Folkestone in June and a total of 6 Least Carpets were trapped at Hythe in July.

The common hawk-moths fared badly with just 6 Elephant Hawk-moths (compared to 36 last year) and even smaller numbers of Privet, Eyed and Small Elephant, and there were no records at all of any prominent species.

A Chalk Carpet at Samphire Hoe on the 16th September was notable.

Of the autumn species Feathered Ranunculus and Lunar Underwing were present in moderate numbers at Hythe but there were just single records of Black Rustic (12th October), Large Ranunculus (12th October) and Beaded Chestnut (3rd October). A Large Wainscot at Hythe on 1st November was a typical late record.